





## INTIMATION

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Per doz. Per bot.

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Quality (old bottled).		
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FINE	\$16.50	1.40
	27.00	2.25

A. S. WATSON & CO.  
LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

(3)

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## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14 DE VUEX ROAD, U.I.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 8th May, 1933.

In the politics of the Rand the question  
of introducing Chinese labour into South  
Africa is still a very burning one and  
little disposition is shown to await the  
Report of the Commission which has been  
sent from South Africa to San Francisco  
and China to view and investigate the  
problem in all its bearings. Last month  
a mass meeting of upwards of 3,500 people  
at Johannesburg declared itself overwhelm-  
ingly opposed to the introduction of Asiatic  
labour, but the reports of the speeches made  
on the occasion contain little or nothing  
which can convince a dispassionate student  
of the problem that the outcry against the  
introduction of the Chinese coolie is well  
based, especially when all the arguments are  
considered in the light of the restrictions  
which the advocates of Chinese immigration  
propose in order to protect the country  
from a replication of the evils of a Chinat-  
own such as exists at San Francisco and  
one or two other places. Chinatown in  
San Francisco is drawn by the opponents  
of Chinese labour in the Rand in most  
harrowing detail and set before the people  
as an awful example of what might be  
expected in South Africa were the demand  
of the mine owners for Chinese labour once  
conceded. A lot of wild talk seems to have  
been indulged in about the Chinese event-  
ually owning South Africa, and for some  
days before the meeting placards were  
paraded in the streets showing the China-  
man trampling on the Union Jack. All  
this, of course, is sheer hysteria, and not  
likely to convince anybody.

The crux of the whole question is the  
sufficiency or otherwise of native labour.  
The advocates of Chinese labour declare  
that there is a most serious deficiency of

native labour, while at the indignation  
meeting above referred to the mover  
of the resolution, who is described in  
the Times report "as a recent arrival  
from New Zealand," talked of a hundred  
million natives in Africa, mentioning  
Moors and Arabs as a possible source  
of supply. Against this we have to place  
the dictum of men like Sir GEORGE FARRAR,  
one of the largest employers of labour in  
the Rand. A liberal estimate, he says, gives  
a population of 6,000,000 natives South of  
the Zambesi of whom only 370,000 could be  
counted upon for work. The deficiency of  
native labour for the gold and coal mines on  
the Rand was 91,084; the labour required  
five years hence would be 300,000; and added  
to these were requirements of labour for rail-  
way construction, public works, etc., also for  
Rhodesia, amounting to about 90,000. Sir  
GEORGE FARRAR, the report adds, did not  
anticipate much success from efforts to  
recruit in other parts of Africa, and finally  
gave his opinion that Asiatics provided the  
only solution of the question, which he  
regarded as a vital national question. He  
stipulated that "if Asiatics, unfortunately  
"have to be brought into this country they  
"can only be brought under Government  
"control and only as unskilled labourers,  
"and must be prohibited from trading and  
"holding land and competing with the  
"white man."

Every effort is apparently being made in  
in South Africa to obtain native labour, but  
the supply even at the present time falls far  
short of the demand. The Rhodesia Mining  
Co. is seeking permission to import 1,000  
Chinamen as an experiment, and it is also  
suggested that the Government itself might  
import 2,000 for works of construction on  
the new railway lines, under a scheme which  
proposes the repatriation of the men at the  
end of two years. It is urged that if this  
scheme should prove successful and no hitch  
occurs with the Chinese authorities, im-  
portation might be extended still further.  
Whatever else might be said of such a  
scheme, it must be admitted that it offers  
but little chance of reproducing in South  
Africa the "Chinatowns" of California.  
That being so the agitation against the im-  
port of Chinese labour loses its main prop.  
But in spite of all pressure, the Imperial  
authorities will not improbably remain  
sitting on the fence until the Report of the  
Commission before mentioned has been  
received and duly considered.

The Russian gunboat *Vauchichley* and the  
two torpedo boats which have been in the  
harbour for some days, left on Wednesday for  
Port Arthur.

Yesterday's plague return contained ten cases,  
—all fatal. Four of the ten bodies had been  
dug. The total number of cases for the  
year is now 518.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial  
and Netherdale Hospitals begs to acknowledge  
with thanks the following donations to the funds  
of the Hospitals:—  
Eveas and Hurston ..... \$25  
Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. .... 10  
Chai Kwai Wa ..... 10  
Kwong Sang & Co. .... 5  
A Patient ..... 2

By permission of Major Radcliff and officers,  
the band of the 33rd Burma Infantry will play  
the following programme of music in the King  
Edward Hotel this evening during dinner from  
7.30 to 9.30 p.m.:—  
March: "My Old Dutch," ..... Williams  
Overture: "Le Carnaval Romain," ..... Berlioz  
Selection: "Les Cloches de Corneville," ..... Planquette  
Song: "The Choriste," ..... Sullivan  
Selection: "The Shop Girl," ..... Ivan Cyril  
Waltz: "Amour, Amour," ..... Alfrano  
Dance: "Irene," ..... Vandervell  
"God Save the King."

If ignorance is a source of wit, the Koreans  
may be considered to be about the wittiest  
people in the world. Recently, says a con-  
temporary, a high dignitary in Seoul called upon a  
Japanese who was staying there in connection  
with the Seoul-Fusan railway. Incidentally the  
talk turned on the question of how long a time  
it would take to travel from the Korean capital  
to Fusan when the railway was completed.  
About twenty hours would be enough for the  
purpose, said the Japanese. The Korean assumed  
a very perplexed air. "The distance requires  
at present," he remarked with a knowing look,  
"about six days. How should I spend the  
remaining five days and four hours by train?  
The prospect is very perplexing."

We have received from the Secretary of the  
Tientsin Chamber of Commerce a copy of a  
pamphlet on *A Gold Standard without a  
Gold Currency*. The papers appeared anony-  
mously in the columns of the *Peking and  
Tientsin Times*, and have now been reprinted,  
with the consent of the author, at the expense  
of the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce. The  
author still preserves his anonymity but ex-  
presses in the preface his obligations to Mr.  
A. M. Lindsay, C.I.E., a well known authority  
on Indian currency, and the greater part of  
the credit for the scheme itself, he says, is due  
to Mr. M. H. Houston a banker of experience  
and an associate of the Institute of Bankers,  
London, who has for some years devoted much  
attention to the question. All students of the  
currency question in China will be glad to have  
these papers in a convenient form, and Messrs.  
Kelly & Walsh are now in a position to gratify  
the wish.

The children in the city of Manila may now  
play on the grass on the Luneta and in the  
Botanical gardens to their heart's delight, says  
the Manila American. This has been made  
possible by the Municipal Board. The Board  
has sent instructions to the Department of  
Parks and to the Police department that the  
children will be allowed to roam at will on the  
grass and that no one is to disturb them.

The fact that the new Filipino dollar is to be  
a coin of the same weight and fineness as the  
British dollar coined at the Bombay mint and  
circulated in the Settlements, Hongkong and  
southern China, may lead, it is said in the  
*Journal of the American Asiatic Association*, to  
facilitate the international agreement which  
is being sought after in regard to the regulation  
of exchange between the gold standard  
countries and those of Eastern Asia. In the  
present movement to introduce stability into  
the value of the silver coins of Indo-China,  
Siam, and British Malaya, there is a notable  
absence of any general understanding as to the  
coinage value which is to be placed on a certain  
number of grains of silver.

The Canadian Minister of Agriculture, in his  
annual report, states that when he wrote it the  
Japanese authorities were putting up a Canadian  
pavilion (for which Canada was to pay \$2,500)  
for the Osaka Exhibition this spring, and that  
"a thoroughly representative exhibit of such  
Canadian products as seem likely to suit the  
market in the Orient" had been prepared.  
"It is thought," the Minister says, "that in  
the near future Japan, whose population is  
increasing very rapidly, and whose imports of  
food must increase correspondingly, will be a  
market in the East open to our Western  
provinces somewhat similar, in a minor degree,  
to the market which our Eastern provinces  
have in Great Britain." Japan now imports  
much food and lumber from the United States,  
and a special effort is being made to get a share  
of this trade for the Dominion.

MR. JOHN ROBERTS IN  
HONGKONG.

On Wednesday night Mr. John Roberts  
the billiard champion, played an exhibition  
game with Mr. E. H. Hinds in the Chinese Club,  
before a large assembly of spectators. Mr.  
Roberts conceded his opponent 55 in a game  
of 1,000 up; he scored slowly at the beginning,  
but increased his score rapidly towards the end,  
drew level at 931 and ran out when Mr. Hinds  
was 951. The champion's best break was 167  
and he also had 35, 44, 57, 113, 70, 51 and 162.  
Mr. Hinds's best were 29, 26, and 39.  
Afterwards the players engaged in three games  
of pyramids in which Mr. Roberts conceded four  
balls and of which he won two. The evening's  
entertainment was brought to a close by the  
Champion performing some wonderful fancy  
shots.

## LAWN TENNIS.

The final of the Lawn Tennis Championship  
was held at the Cricket Club Ground on Wednes-  
day, the finalists being Mr. H. Hancock and  
Mr. Pontifex. The first set was won by Mr.  
Hancock, the second by Mr. Pontifex, third by  
Mr. Hancock, fourth by Mr. Pontifex, and fifth  
by Mr. Hancock. The ground was in good  
order and the play was witnessed by a consid-  
erable number of people including a large pro-  
portion of India. The Band of the 10th Bombay  
Light Infantry was in attendance and played  
an enjoyable programme of music.

The final of the double handicap will be played  
to-morrow at 3.30; the players being Mr. Man  
and Mr. Edwards against Dr. Atkinson and  
Mr. Grist.

## THE V.R.C.

The V.R.C. will hold two scratch races—a  
four-barred race and a double-sculls race—  
tomorrow afternoon at 4 p.m. The starter will  
be Mr. W. Armstrong; umpire Mr. T. Meek,  
and Judges Messrs A. H. B. Mitchell and E.  
M. Hazeland.

The Secretary's launch will leave Blake Pier  
with members and friends at 3.30 p.m. sharp.

## GOLF.

The final of the championship of the Royal  
Hongkong Golf Club will be played between  
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis and Mr. W. W. Clark on  
Wednesday, the 13th instant, at Happy Valley.  
Members will be at home at the Golf House  
from 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. and ladies are invited.

## POLO.

The first round in an International Polo  
Tournament will take place to-morrow, when  
England will play Ireland. By kind permission  
of Col. Wylie and officers, the Band of the  
Sherwood Foresters will be in attendance.

## THE "ZAFIRO" CASE VERDICT.

By insouciance the verdict of the jury in  
the *Zafiro* trial was stated in our report as being  
given in favour of the plaintiff. It should, of  
course, have been in favour of the defendants,  
the China and Manila S.S. Co.

## WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday morn-  
ing issued the following report:—  
The depression is moving away from NE.  
Japan where the barometer is now rising.  
Pressure has given very considerably along the  
China coast and over the Loochoos, the  
depression lying over China yesterday having  
moved out to sea to the S. of Shanghai this  
morning.  
Wind probably freshening from NE. in the  
Formosa Channel during the next 24 hours.  
Light S. and SE. winds over the N. part of  
the China Sea.  
Forecast:—S. winds 1 moderate or light;  
fine at first, becoming unsettled later.

## TELEGRAMS.

## REUTER'S SERVICE.

## THE KING'S TOUR.

LONDON, 5th May.

The King passed the night on his yacht at  
Ocherbourg and entertained the French and  
English Officers on board. The British and  
French squadrons illuminated.

LATER.

The King, who has arrived in London mot  
with an exceptionally enthusiastic reception  
emphasising the appreciation of the results of  
his tour.

## THE IRISH LAND BILL.

LONDON, 5th May.

Mr. Wyndham moved the second reading of  
the Irish Land Bill. Mr. J. Redmond severely  
criticised the details and entreated the Govern-  
ment to adopt essential amendments to which  
both landlords and tenants agreed; should the  
Government not adopt the amendments the  
Nationalists would not support the Bill.

## SOMALILAND.

LONDON, 5th May.

It is rumoured in Aden that the Mullah  
attacked the column at Geladi and was repulsed  
with heavy loss, the British losses being  
considerable.

## "A DREAM OF RINALDO."

For people who have other and to them more  
serious pursuits in life than that of stagecraft,  
the performance given in the Theatre Royal on  
Wednesday and repeated yesterday evening by  
the Mock Gaiety Gang of H.M.S. *Rinaldo* was  
a very creditable one. It perhaps did not quite  
attain the standard of excellence that had been  
set for it, but the performers were sailors, first  
and foremost, and as such their pluck in  
inviting public criticism in the other rôle is to  
be admired. Their objective, to the giving of  
something to charity, was at once most com-  
mendable and sufficient to ensure a tolerant view  
of any defects that may have existed. They  
did their best, and more than that could neither  
be asked nor expected. Following a farce  
entitled *Out of Tune*, the main part of the  
entertainment, *A Dream of Rinaldo*, was sub-  
mitted. It is an extravaganza, purely and  
simply, and the plot runs as follows:—The  
hero, Ben Brace, a King's "hard bargain," is  
given to reading historical romances—in his  
occasional intervals of sobriety. From the  
nature of his dream, his favourites would appear  
to have been Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered"  
and Ariosto's "Orlando Furioso." Ben Brace  
breaks into the canteen beer supply, and indulges  
freely. Regaining the quarter-deck of his ship,  
he succumbs in the arms of Morphene and dreams  
of "Rinaldo" and a mutiny brought about by him.  
An enchanted isle and general festivities also  
figure prominently in his muddled brain. He is  
carried back to his younger days and dreams  
fondly of his relations, recalling old ties and the  
happy times of his childhood. "Rinaldo," a  
favourite hero of medieval romance, and a  
famous warrior, was one of Charlemagne's  
Paladins and a cousin of Orlando. He was  
outlawed for murder, banished, and led a crusade  
to the Holy Land. "Arnida" was a sorceress  
employed by Satan to use her wiles to prevent  
the Crusaders from reaching Palestine. She suc-  
ceeded in luring "Rinaldo" to an enchanted isle.  
Such was the structure of the piece on which the  
*Rinaldos* expended their art. The dialogue in  
places was smart, but being mainly reminiscent  
of the sea and things thereof, its application  
was often lost on that part of the audience  
whose attention does not bring them into con-  
tact with "docters," telescopic sights, firing  
targets, and so on, of the uses or misuses  
of which they were consequently not in a  
position to judge. Songs, some of them  
amusing parodies of popular compositions, were  
rendered, and a quartette of "handy men"  
got up as girls—very well got up they were, too  
—executed a ballet, whilst another invyaded  
the loftier regions of the skirt-dancer. The  
orchestral music was excellent, and the scenery  
reflected credit on those responsible for it, a  
fine painting of the *Rinaldos* on the drop curtain  
arousing very favourable comment. It is to be  
hoped that the two performances given will  
enable the charity for the assistance of which  
the entertainment was organised to be materially  
benefited.

## CATTLE FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

The Government of the Philippines have  
sent a commissioner to Shanghai and the Straits  
to purchase 10,000 carabao for the islands.  
This is a first move on the part of the author-  
ities to expand part of the appropriation for  
the relief of the agriculturalists. The greater  
portion of these animals in North China  
consist principally of Indian bullocks. At  
each point bids will be advertised for  
to supply these animals and in this  
way it is believed that the best service  
can be secured for the money expended. All  
the animals must be inoculated and declared  
immune from the rinderpest before they will  
be allowed to land. The average weight of the  
animals must be about 1,100 pounds male and  
800 female. This sized animal, it is believed,  
will meet every requirement and the  
distribution of the first batch of 10,000, will be  
in the way of an experiment with Indian cattle.  
The animals will be sold to the farmers  
throughout the provinces at cost and liberal  
terms will be given for payment on the purchase.  
It is thought that in three months the animals  
will be on the way and the agriculturalists can use  
them during the coming season.

## HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held  
yesterday in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J.  
M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer  
(President), presided; and there were also  
present: Mr. J. M. Messer, Acting Registrar-  
General; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr.  
Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak; Mr.  
H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. A. Ramjohn, Mr.  
E. A. Hewett, Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary)  
and Dr. W. W. Pearce (Acting Medical Officer  
of Health).

## NEW MEMBER.

The Secretary laid on the table a formal  
letter from Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., inform-  
ing the Board that H. H. the Governor had  
been pleased to appoint Mr. E. A. Hewett a  
member of the Sanitary Board in place of Mr.  
E. Osborne resigned.

## FLOORS OF OPIUM DIVANS.

Correspondence was laid on the table dealing  
with the question of concreting the upper floors  
of opium divans.  
The President said that according to the  
first of the Bye-laws dealing with the question  
of opium divans the floors required to be laid  
with concrete. There was a number of those  
opium divans on other than ground floors—that  
was to say, on first and second floors. The  
matter had been referred to the Board to make  
a ruling in respect of this. Personally, he  
thought that at present at any rate they  
should limit their operations to insisting  
upon these cement floors only in the opium  
divans that were on the ground floors. It would  
be a great hardship on the proprietors to  
have to concrete the first and second floors,  
because that would necessitate in some cases, he  
understood, the putting in of iron girders before  
they could lay cement on the upper floors.

Colonel Webb seconded.  
Mr. HEWETT presumed that as it had been  
considered necessary that this bye-law should  
apply to all opium divans generally, licenses  
for such places would be issued only for ground  
floors. It was very necessary that the terms of  
the Ordinance should be brought into force as  
soon as possible.

The President said that could be done as  
the divan licensees applied for new licenses.  
The motion was agreed to.

## PLAQUE-INFECTED HOUSES.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative  
to the removal of furniture, bedding, etc., from  
plague-infected houses.  
In a letter to the Board the Colonial Secre-  
tary asked: Has the Board considered the  
question of prohibiting the removal of furniture,  
bedding, etc., in plague time without a permit?  
It would stop the removal of infected effects  
from plague-infected houses before the police  
or sanitary inspectors arrive on the scene.

The Secretary wrote: "This may be done  
under No. 2 of the Bye-laws for the Prevention  
or Mitigation of Epidemic, Endemic or Con-  
tagious Diseases."

Mr. Pollock minuted: "I don't think that  
the Bye-laws cover all the ground which is  
covered by the Colonial Secretary's minute."  
Mr. Fung Wa Chun: "General prohibition  
is inadvisable as it interferes with the freedom  
of the people. As far as infected houses are  
concerned the idea is good."

Captain Lyons: "A copy of the Bye-laws  
in question might be attached."

The President: "The Crown Solicitor states  
that this bye-law empowers the prevention of  
the removal of furniture, etc., to or from any  
premises in the districts defined by the Board."  
The President said that according to No. 2  
of the Bye-laws for the Prevention or Mitigation  
of Epidemic, Endemic, or Contagious Diseases,  
it was evidently illegal for any person or  
persons to remove clothing or furniture from  
one house to another in any district that had  
been defined by the Board. The whole of the  
districts had practically been defined by the  
Board, and infrequently the police and sanitary  
inspectors had powers to stop the removal of  
clothing or furniture from one house to another.

Mr. POLLOCK—What do you take to be the  
meaning of the words "during such time  
of this cleansing" at the beginning of clause  
No. 2—what does it refer to?  
The President—I think that simply refers  
to cleansing operations actually going on in an  
infected house, or a house in which a case of  
plague has occurred.

Mr. POLLOCK did not agree with this interpre-  
tation, and on the motion of the President,  
seconded by Mr. POLLOCK, the matter was  
referred to the Attorney-General for his  
opinion.

## SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Sanitary Surveyor's report for the first  
quarter of 1933 was laid on the table. It stated  
that plans had been passed for the drainage of  
54 houses, and 713 were carried forward. The  
drainage was completed of 70 houses, leaving 688  
to carry forward. Notices for repairs or altera-  
tions of drains of houses to the number of 154  
were in hand during the quarter; 74 were  
completed. Certificates had been granted for  
137 new houses. Drains of 33 houses had been  
reported upon; 34 required amending. In  
addition to the above, 7,722 houses had been  
inspected by the drainage inspectors, and 431  
minor drainage nuisances were discovered. 91  
nuisances were reported to the M. O. H. and 91  
to the D. P. W. 792 choked drain traps on  
private property had been cleared.

## CHINESE THEATRES AND PLAQUE.

The President moved that the Board recom-  
mend the closing of Chinese theatres during  
the prevalence of the present epidemic of  
bubonic plague. It must be evident to members  
of the Board, he said, that the congregation of  
large numbers of people at such times as the  
present was inadvisable. In 1902 the same  
course was pursued, and he thought it very  
desirable to take this precaution now.

Col. Webb seconded, and said he quite con-  
curred in the President's view.

Mr. FONG WA CHUN opposed the motion  
for the simple reason that these theatres were  
the only places where the Chinese could have a  
little pleasure, and he thought it better that  
they should be encouraged to go out of doors in  
the evening rather than confine themselves  
in ill-ventilated, badly-lighted houses. Besides,  
it was not fair for the Board to close the  
Chinese theatres and leave the English theatre  
open. The Board must be impartial.

Mr. HEWETT—In the event of these theatres  
being closed, sir, do I understand the order  
to extend to all places of entertainment, such as  
"sing-song" houses? I suppose there must be  
such establishments here.

The President—No; merely the recognised  
Chinese theatres.

Mr. HEWETT—Mr. Fung Wa Chun has  
referred to it as the closing of the only place of  
entertainment open to the Chinese. Would  
any compensation be paid to these people if the  
theatres are closed by the Government?  
The President said it was highly necessary  
that these theatres should be disinfected and  
cleaned, and the closing of them by the  
Government would afford an excellent  
opportunity to do so. The theatres contained  
thousands of people when they were full—two  
or three thousand could get into the Ko Shing  
Theatre—and on public health grounds it was  
desirable that these large gatherings should not  
take place at present. With reference to the  
English theatre, he was not aware that any  
performances were going on there just now.

As an amendment, Mr. LAU CHU PAK  
moved that the theatres be closed for cleansing  
and disinfecting purposes once a fortnight, and  
not closed altogether.

Mr. FONG WA CHUN seconded, but on a  
division the amendment was lost.

The President's motion for the closing of  
the theatres was carried by a majority.

## LICENSES REFUSED.

Two applications for licenses for the sale of  
Pork were refused on the recommendation of  
the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, and another  
for the sale of fruit was similarly dealt with  
after the President explaining that the Board  
wished to keep such goods within the markets  
if possible.

## LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return for the fortnight  
ended 28th April, showed that 2,554 houses in  
the Central District had been dealt with.

The President referred to this return as  
very satisfactory.

## RAT RETURN—THE PEAK.

During the two weeks ended 27th ult. and  
4th inst., the numbers of rats destroyed were  
3,820 and 3,193, of which total 321 were found  
to be infected.

The President took that opportunity of  
drawing the attention of the public to the fact  
that a rat-catcher and a foreman had been  
appointed to the Peak District. The Sanitary  
Board would be very pleased to receive any  
application from residents of the Peak who had  
rats on their premises. On receiving such  
applications the rat-catchers would be sent to  
the houses. This, he thought, was not generally  
known. It did not involve any expense to the  
person applying for the rat-catchers as they  
would be sent at the expense of the Sanitary  
Board.

## KITCHEN FLOORS.

A minute was submitted from the Acting  
M.O.H. stating that he should like to have some  
definite understanding as to what materials were  
approved by the Building Authority as suitable  
for building floors. Canton (red) tiles were  
not non-absorbent. See Sec. 140 of 1 of 1903.  
The D.P.W. stated in reply: "Cement con-  
crete; cement rendering; asphalt; the tiles or  
paving bricks made by the Deep Water Bay  
Works. These are all the materials that are  
likely to arise in practice at present. If there  
is any other brought forward I shall be prepared  
to consider it."

The President said that Dr. Pearce asked  
for a ruling. It appeared that ordinary Canton  
tiles were not impervious. He believed he was  
right in saying that at present most of the  
kitchens were paved with these tiles. It would  
be something of an inconvenience to have to  
concrete them over or obtain impervious tiles.  
This, he thought was not an urgent necessity.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—All kitchens have  
been concreted.

## DR. PEARCE—No.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—I think so—unless  
the officers have not been doing their duty.

The President—Of course there are kit-  
chens on the upper floors as well.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—You cannot concrete  
the kitchens on the upper floors.

Mr. RUNJAHN—I think it is possible to lay  
a course of encaustic tiles on the top of  
Chinese red tiles. I have done so.

The President—There is no doubt it is  
possible. The question is whether it is feasible.  
Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—I do not think it is  
feasible.

Dr. PEARCE







## TO LET



## SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

A PARROT AT SCHOOL—A UNIQUE STAR IN THE MAJOR—FORGOTTEN PLANETS—A RING OF COMETS' TAILS—OZONE THERMOMETER—THE BEST EVIDENCE—APPROXIMATE RESURRECTION—A GREAT DUST STORM—MAN'S ORIGINAL HOME.

The lesson in associating ideas that Pierre Hachet Souplet has taught a parrot opens a wide vista of possibilities in animal instruction. Polly was brought daily into the laboratory, soon learned to name a "cupboard" and a "ladder" and to say "climb" when her master went up the latter. The reward of correctness was the opening of the cupboard to allow the bird to help herself to hoppedstotch. One day, when Polly was brought in, the cupboard was near the ceiling and the ladder stood with other articles in a corner, the purpose being to test her ability to put together the words she knew. The experiment was a failure. The next day Polly, in a furious temper, struggled to break from her cage but at last opened the cupboard near the ceiling, when she instantly exclaimed, "Ladder-climb-cupboard." This remarkable sentence-making was promptly rewarded.

A new variable star which has been under observation at the Potsdam Observatory for more than a year, proves to be of extraordinary interest on account of its short period, its cycle of light changes being completed in 4 hours—more than 3 hours less than that of any other known star. The magnitude varies from 8.55 to 7.9, and it is supposed that the changes must be due to the revolution of two bright bodies at short distances around their centre of gravity.

Some of the 500 asteroids so laboriously found within the last century are liable to become lost. Prof. E. C. Pickering points out that 65 of them have not been observed within the years, while about 25 have escaped notice for ten to thirty years, and as their orbits are but imperfectly known there is risk that when next seen these little planetary companions will not be recognised.

Recent observers have found that plumb line for accurate work should be of copper or bronze. A steel wire in a deep shaft was slightly deflected by the earth's magnetism.

Comets shed a portion of their tails. Prof. Lewis Swift tells us, and as they have been doing this since creation, the probable result is a ring of nebulous matter surrounding the earth and possibly extending to Neptune's orbit. Reflection of sunlight from these out-off tails of comets is Prof. Swift's explanation of the zodiacal light. This light, which is just beginning to attract the serious attention of astronomers, is a faint glow seen in the west after sunset and in the east before sunrise, and it takes the form of a cone 25 degrees wide at the base and often extending nearly to the zenith. While, in some countries or places it is seen only in spring and autumn, in the west in the former season and in the east in the latter, it is visible throughout the year from the Lowell Observatory in southern California. Even more mysterious is the Gegenschein, a faintly shining circle in the midnight sky exactly opposite the sun, and sometimes joined to the zodiacal light by broad bands of scarcely perceptible light. While making his guess, Prof. Swift doubts whether the cause of these phenomena will ever be proven.

Ozonising apparatus, for vitalising the atmosphere of the sick-chamber, may become a necessary part of the physician's outfit. Dr. J. E. S. Barnes, an English medical man, reports having used the ozoniser in a severe case of pneumonia complicated with pleurisy, and the result was an immediate and important change in the air of the room, which was followed by rapid improvement of the patient's condition. Ozonisers are being used also for bettering the air of factories.

The shape of the rudder of a vessel seems to be of more importance than has been generally supposed. Experiments in Scotland by J. Foster King indicate that the rectangular form has decided advantages, as it presents a large surface at the load line under all conditions, and requires a smaller stock and working gear than curved shapes. With sufficient area, the narrow blade is as effective as the broad one, while it can be set more rapidly.

The 60 mastodons found in New York have been along well-marked belts, the feeding places having been old river banks.

The Russian feat of reanimating the heart of a child that had been dead twenty hours is shown by Dr. E. Romae to be nothing new. The heart is not the delicate organ generally supposed, and for a long time physiologists have understood the possibility that it could

be restored to action, the effect being of shorter duration in the human heart than in that of lower animals. A current of arterial blood, or a solution of salt charged with oxygen, is a common means of restoring the beating to dead hearts. By massage, the exposed heart being rhythmically rubbed with the right hand, Prof. Prus, of Lemberg, has succeeded in reanimating 55 hearts out of 100; and by combining massage with electrical action, M. Batelli, of Geneva, has revived dead dogs and kept them alive as much as twenty-four hours. Human beings have been revived by the latter method, though only for a short time.

A dust-fall of February has been traced over 24 counties in England, 8 in Wales and 1 in Ireland, and it has been reported from numerous places on the Continent. The dust overpread the land like smoke, while near Southampton the cloud was so dense that a person could not see a road at noon. Like the fall of 1901 and 1902, the dust is supposed to be of desert origin, probably from Northern Africa, and does not appear to be volcanic.

The cradle of the human race is still being sought. The widely accepted theory of Max Muller, based on language, teaches that man's early home was in India; but some ethnologists are now inclined to agree with Prof. Hirt that the Aryans first lived in the territory north of the Carpathian Mountains, near the boundary line between Austria-Hungary and Russia, now occupied by Letts and Lithuanians.

In his latest researches, Prof. Curie has found that radium keeps its own temperature at 13.5°C. above that of the atmosphere. This paradoxical substance emits more than enough heat to melt its own weight of ice, yet there is no combustion, nor chemical nor molecular change.

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## A GREAT UNDERTAKING.

The task of the editors has not been an easy one. The decisive circumstances which affected the work of bringing the Encyclopædia Britannica up to date were peculiar. What form was the Tenth Edition to assume? The idea that the Tenth Edition should be an entirely new work, that should take up the history of the world from the beginning again, had only to suggest itself to be dismissed. Advances have been made, and events have occurred which are not to be found in the existing twenty-four volumes of the Ninth Edition; but the advances have not been of so revolutionary a character as to diminish the value of the matter contained in the twenty-four volumes—so far as it goes—of the present work. The production of a new edition of a work of reference is often an occasion, not merely for making additions of new matter, but also for improving the matter that is already in existence. In this case although there was very

much to add, there was nothing to improve. Only an unreasonable love of innovation for innovation's sake could have recommended the plan of producing a Tenth Edition afresh from the beginning, an edition which should not only contain the new knowledge for which the times call, but also cover again the ground already so admirably covered in the existing twenty-four volumes.

The history of England, for example, broke off with the accession of Queen Victoria, and here very obviously an addition was needed; but there would have been no possible excuse for re-writing the history of England up to the death of William IV., since that history had been written by Professor Freeman and Professor Rawson Gurnier, and it may well be doubted whether any two—or twenty—historians to-day could contribute so fine a treatise upon the subject. No shadow of a reason could have been found to justify the re-writing of that article, and the publisher of the Tenth Edition would have had no reason to be grateful to the new Editors had they decided upon such a course.

## THE PAST—THE PRESENT.

What was true of English history was true of all other history. It was true of biography, literature, philosophy, and the arts. It was true also of the fundamental principles of science which have governed the inter-relationships, and without which the new discoveries and advances could not be laid down better than they were by Huxley, Romanes, and the other eminent men of science whose contributions went to give the twenty-four volumes of the present work their value. A work of reference which has been so long in the world since the beginning naturally related its hold when it came to the

present. Biographies of living men were excluded from its pages, and contemporary history was but lightly touched upon and so it happened that the inquirer sometimes looked in vain for the information he most wanted—information concerning his own time. In the production of the Tenth Edition there was a temptation to retain such a conservative attitude. The past was already recorded, and in a manner which, by general admission, defied improvement. The Editors, departmental editors, and contributors concurred in the new undertaking, were, therefore, free to devote their whole attention to contemporary life. Hence the Tenth Edition is abreast of the times to an extent which would scarcely have been possible under other conditions.

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